AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

On page 1 and before the section entitled "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION,"

please insert the following new paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/425,185, filed

April 19, 1995 (status pending).--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-46 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 47-60:

47. (New) A system for distributing and redeeming electronic coupons comprising:

a first server system including a computer processor and associated memory, said first

server system being connected by a communications channel to a client system, said first

server system being adapted for transmitting an electronic coupon to said client system over

said communications channel;

said client system including a computer processor and associated memory, said client

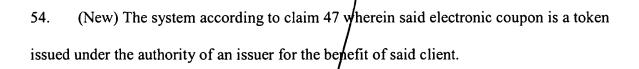system being adapted for storing said electronic coupon in said memory;

a second server system connected to said communications channel, said second server

system being adapted to establish a connection with said client system and for detecting said

electronic coupon stored on said client system, said second server system further being

adapted to redeem said electronic coupon.

48.   (New) A system according to claim 47 further comprising:

a third server system connected to said communications channel, said third server

system being adapted for communicating with said second server system and for authorizing

the redemption of said electronic coupon.

49.   (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said second server system is adapted

to redeem said coupon as a function of a transaction initiated between said client system and

said second server system.

50.   (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said second server system is adapted

to redeem said coupon by modifying a transaction initiated between said client system and

said second server system.

51.   (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said communications channel includes

a network.

52.   (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said communications channel includes

a TCP/IP based network and said coupon includes a cookie.

53.   (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said first server system and said

second server system are the same server system.

54.   (New) The system according to claim 47 wherein said electronic coupon is a token issued under the authority of an issuer for the benefit of said client.

55.   (New) The system according to claim 47 wherein said electronic coupon includes data representative of one or more of a serial or identification number, a validation key, an authentication key, an authorizing vendor, a redeeming vendor, a benefit or discount to be associated with a transaction, a level of access granted, and an issuing activity.

56.   (New) The system according to claim 47 wherein said electronic coupon includes data representative of the identity of a location at which additional coupon information resides.

57.   (New) A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon comprising the steps of:

    A) establishing a connection over a communications channel between a client and a server;

    B) transferring said electronic coupon from said server to said client;

    C) establishing a connection over a communications channel between said client and a subsequent server, said subsequent server including one of said server and other servers;

    D) said client requesting information from said subsequent server;

    E) said subsequent server recognizing said electronic coupon;

F) said subsequent server redeeming said electronic coupon as a function of a transaction initiated between said client and said subsequent server.

58.   (New) A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon according to claim 57 wherein prior to step A, the server receives a request for information from the client.

59.   (New) A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon according to claim 57 further comprising the step of:

authenticating said electronic coupon and authorizing a transaction between said client and subsequent server as a function of an authenticated electronic coupon.

60.   (New) A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon according to claim 57 further comprising the steps of:

establishing a connection between said subsequent server and an authentication server;

said authentication server authenticating said electronic coupon and authorizing the redemption of said electronic coupon.--